

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2007 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: 3

I. Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Service Program Management

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III. Project Summary: The ongoing work of the Recovery Program Director's office is to ensure timely and effective planning, implementation, coordination, and administrative support of the Recovery Program by: 1) coordinating and implementing recovery activities; 2) conducting Program planning and evaluation; 3) managing the Recovery Program annual budget; 4) providing staff assistance to Program committees; and 5) directing and coordinating Service Recovery Program activities. These tasks were carried out by Recovery Program staff including the director, assistant director, coordinators for the major recovery elements, and administrative staff.

IV. Study Schedule: 1989-ongoing.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan:

- VII.A.3 Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.
- VII.A.7 Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.
- VII.A.8 Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.
- VII.B Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects.
- VII.C Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2007 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

A. Program Director & Staff

1. Directed and coordinated implementation of recovery efforts as described in the RIPRAP and the Annual Work Plan in the areas of: a) instream flow protection b) habitat restoration and nonnative fish management; c) propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and d) information, education, and public involvement. At the beginning of FY 07, program coordinators were: George Smith for instream flow protection (George is not Program staff, but is under the Service's Water Resources office; he has been coordinating instream flow activities since Gerry Roehm's retirement in 2005); Pat Nelson for habitat restoration (floodplain restoration, fish passages and screens) and nonnative fish control; Tom Czapla for propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data

management; and Debbie Felker for information, education, and public involvement. George Smith plans to retire at the end of 2007. Jana Mohrman of the Service's Water Resources office will replace George on hydrology-related issues. Tom Chart was hired as instream flow coordinator in October 2007. Serious illness interrupted Pat Nelson's plans to retire at the end of September 2007; he is not expected to return to work. Due to Pat's illness, Tom Chart is also currently coordinating nonnative fish and floodplain activities. In addition to propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management, Tom Czaplak is also currently coordinating fish passage and screen activities. The Program Director's office long-time secretary, Kathy Wall, retired in July 2007 and was replaced by Mary Nelson.

Maintained tracking system of Program reports and due dates to ensure timely accomplishment of Program objectives.

Significant Program accomplishments/activities in 2007 included:

- Augmentation of late summer flows in the Yampa River for the first time using releases from Elkhead Reservoir. Using 4,300 af of our 5,000 af pool in early August through mid-September, flows were kept above 125 af.
- Continued augmentation of late summer flows in 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. Late summer flow augmentation began in early August, a flow target of 850 to 1,240 cfs was established 15-Mile Reach. Approximately 53,000 af of water was released to support late-summer target flows. This total included ~23,000 af from Green Mountain, 14,273 af from Ruedi, 2,523 af from Williams Fork, 4,339 af from Wolford Mountain Reservoir, and 8,500 in Shoshone Power Plant make-up water. Flows were kept above 850 cfs (often above 1,000 cfs) for much of the late summer.
- Completed Study Plan for the Implementation and Evaluation of Flow and Temperature Recommendations for Endangered Fishes in the Green River Downstream of Flaming Gorge Dam.
- Nonnative fish control activities reviewed at the a December 2006 workshop, resulting in increased efforts in 2007 to remove northern pike and smallmouth bass in the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers. Public meeting held in Grand Junction, CO, in August. Initiated review/revision of nonnative fish stocking procedures. Continued development/revision of Yampa River nonnative fish strategy. Requested nonnative fish synthesis reports and began review.
- Razorback production and stocking targets exceeded for middle Green and Colorado/Gunnison rivers in 2007; all bonytail production and stocking targets fully met.
- Initiated recovery goals revision.
- Began developing report to Congress due from the Secretary of the Interior in 2008.

2. Conducted Program planning and evaluation:
  - a. Reviewed and updated the RIPRAP and document changes (including changes to the RIPRAP budget); submitted recommended RIPRAP revisions to the technical, Management, and Implementation committees for review. Revised RIPRAP, finalized and posted on website.
  - b. Developed FY 2008-2009 biennial work plan and posted scopes of work to web. Monitored FY 2007 Work Plan implementation and recommended modifications, as needed.
  - c. Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2006 project accomplishment reports to the web. Summarized and distributed FY 2006 report recommendations.
  - d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.
  - e. Provided updates of depletion consultations.
3. Monitored the FY 2007 Recovery Program annual budget and modified as necessary.
  - a. Developed annual funding source/target tables (Program, Reclamation, and Service).
  - b. Developed and administered numerous cooperative agreements and contracts to implement activities such as: peer review, recovery goal revision, stream gages, etc.
  - c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
  - d. Calculated FY 2008 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2006 CPI.
  - e. Assisted with obtaining annual funding by organizing (and accompanying) Recovery Program trip to Washington, D.C. to brief key people in the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, national environmental groups, Congressional delegations, and authorizing and appropriation committees. Prepared briefing book.
4. Provided staff assistance to the Implementation and Management committees:

- a. Prepared and distributed agendas and related documents in coordination with committee chairs. Arranged meetings and conference calls. Began using web conferencing.
  - b. Prepared and promptly distributed concise, accurate meeting summaries.
  - c. Maintained Recovery Program administrative record.
  - d. Provided staff assistance to committees as necessary.
  - e. Recovery Program committee and related activities publicized on the Program listserver and posted on Program participant web pages.
  - f. Attended Implementation, Management, and technical committee meetings. Took notes at Biology Committee meetings and promptly provided drafts meeting summaries to the Committee chair.
  - g. Maintained Recovery Program technical report library and database. Maintained library listing in Endnote bibliographic software and on the Program participant web pages.
  - h. Continued to maintain the electronic mailing list for Program participants. Temporarily resolved problem with way attachments are handled.
  - i. Maintained web pages to serve information to Program participants.
5. Directed and coordinated Service activities related to the Recovery Program.
- a. Administered funding for Service Recovery Program activities.
  - b. Conducted monthly Service conference call.
  - c. Coordinated with and provided staff support to Service management on Recovery Program activities and issues.

#### B. Fish and Wildlife Service

- 1. Provided technical expertise and recommendations to the Biology Committee as requested.
- 2. Participated in Biology Committee meetings (Note: Dave Irving has replaced Tom Chart as the Service's representative on the Biology Committee.)

VII.Recommendations: 1) Increase use of web conferencing where applicable (e.g., routine committee business, increased collaboration among Program participants); 2) Re-vamp Program participants' website (planned for FY 08).

VIII.Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

IX.FY 2007 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$1,083,106 plus \$59,730.66 overhead.
- B. Funds Expended: \$916,645 plus \$59,730.66 overhead.
- C. Difference: \$166,461 carried over to FY 08 (A portion of this amount may be needed for costs of instream flow coordinator move, but the remainder will be returned to the Recovery Program).
- D. Percent of FY 2007 work completed and projected costs to complete: All work completed.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None this year.

X.Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.

XI.Signed: Robert Muth, November 9, 2007.

APPENDIX: See also:

- FY 2006 annual progress reports: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/anr.htm>
- April 2007 RIPRAP: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/rip4-07.htm>
- FY 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 Recovery Program scopes of work: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/sow.htm>
- FY 2007 & FY 2008 Depletion Charge and Annual Budget Adjustments: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/depl.htm>
- Implementation and Management committee meeting summaries: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/mee.htm>
- Quarterly summary of Section 7 consultations for water depletions in the upper Colorado River: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/sec7.htm>